

AGENDA

Chatham Township Environmental Commission

Tuesday May 6, 2014, 7:28 PM at the Township Municipal Building. The meeting will end no later than 9:45 PM.

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:26 pm on Tuesday, May 6, 2014 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Steve Carroll, Mike Kelly, Marilyn Murray & Don Travisano. Absent: Frank Esposito, Matt Palmer, Megan Schaaf, George Crimmins, Dot Stillinger and Curt Ritter. Also in attendance Peggy Monkemeier from AmeriCorps New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Program, observing as part of her training.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: To undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources and air quality, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2014 and January 2015 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2014 AND JANUARY 2015

Every first Tuesday February through December 2014 and the second Tuesday in January 2015.

February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July NO MEETING, August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2 in 2014 and January 13 in 2015.

ROLL CALL

Mike Kelly motion to approve the Green Team and CTEC minutes of April 1, 2014 and Steve Carroll 2nd, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:28-7:48)

Work ahead on Sustainable Jersey points for 2016. Planning Board is considering adopting the NRI as an element of the Master Plan as required for 20 SJ points. Discussed amending the existing Tree Protection Committee Ordinance, whereas an ordinance exists, but there is no established committee. Amending this ordinance would allow the Township Committee the option to appoint members to a tree protection committee if they so choose. If ordinance is amended, Steve recommends using it towards SJ points. Mike Kelly motioned to accept proposed ordinance and Marilyn Murray 2nd, with all in favor. Steve will propose amending ordinance to Township Committee member Curt Ritter. Steve will email CTEC members to see if anyone is interested in participating at the Fishawack Festival on June 14.

S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

CLOSED. Gunn, Block 9, Lot 1, 88 Long View Avenue. Application to Planning Board to subdivide 1.34-acre lot in R-3 (1/2-acre) zone into 2 new lots. Issues : steep slopes, possible habitat for endangered species, tree removal, stormwater. Site visit Saturday, April 5 at 9 a.m. CTEC approved and sent a memo to PB.

PENDING. Rolling Knolls Superfund site at the end of Britten Road. No new information. It was specifically excluded from the market garden ordinance. The Refuge under no circumstances would consider acquiring it until the cleanup has been completed and all liability has been extinguished. It has been declared "an area in need of redevelopment" by the Township Committee. What does that mean for conservation purposes?

REPORTS

Planning Board report. – D. Travisano - Planning Board has sent letter to Township Committee recommending inclusion of the Green Checklist in the application checklist. Complete Streets is being incorporated into the Circulation Element of the Master Plan. A professional will compile all the parts of the Circulation Element into a single document. Planning Board public hearing on incorporating the NRI into the Master Plan was held last night. The Planning Board agreed to the NRI with the exception of 2 amendments: 1. Removal of the Frank Banisch 2007 study. 2. Removal of the Apgar report on the Superfund site Rolling Knolls. Steve Carroll motion to remove those two items from the NRI plan and Mike Kelly 2nd with all in favor. Don Travisano will inform the Planning Board of CTEC's decision.

Township Committee report.

No report. C. Ritter, Township Committee liaison.

Open Space Committee report. No report. M. Schaaf, M. Kelly, Open Space Committee liaisons.

Communications Committee report. No report.

Archive page on EC website is an excellent resource, serves as backup for important files. Township website has been updated and problems addressed with the CTEC website. Any EC member wanting to post material on the EC website should forward the items to F. Esposito

Recycling Committee report. No report.

- Progress in creating a survey using free version of Survey Monkey to gauge public interest in weekly recycles pickup. M. Schaaf, M. Palmer.

Community Education and Outreach Committee report. No report. M. Kelly, M. Schaaf, and F. Esposito, Chair.

Conservation Easement Subcommittee. No recent meetings.

- Conservation easements on 4 properties on River Road, including the one on the Greeve property, need to be recorded and accepted. Planning Board final subdivision approval was granted 3-21-96 conditioned that a conservation easement on all four new parcels had to be granted to the Township. Developer was Nick Parisi.

- CTEC should pursue a mechanism for conservation easement monitoring and recording.

- Lot grading plan is being revised to include more protection for conservation easements.

NOTES AND DISCUSSION

- Report on 12th Annual Open Space Workday on April 19. More than 50 volunteers collected 40 bags of trash and large metal and plastic items, cleared, blew leaves from footpath, spread woodchips on the trail, and clipped brambles. Thanks to all who participated in the organizing and the trail work.

- Bear sighted on 5/6/14 – Garfield Avenue, Madison, NJ.

- New and very good NJDEP website for maps, parcels and environmental information at NJ-GeoWeb,

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/geoweb splash.htm>. Use Internet Explorer, not Chrome.

- Very good Morris County mapping facility at <http://morrisgisapps.co.morris.nj.us/apps/parcelsearcher.html>. Gives information about each parcel and has aerials layer.

- Discussion about requiring subdivision and site plans and related documents to be submitted in pdf format. If that happens CTEC should be on the list to receive all pdf plans and documents. Currently the township requires applicants to submit 25 paper copies of every sheet and document, which amounts to a large stack of paper and is costly for the applicant.

- Waiting for the report card from Joe Dunn of the Morris County Soil Conservation District (www.mcsd.org/) on how Chatham Township is doing on its soil and sediment erosion control. Chatham Township, by means of its lot grading plan requirement, is one of four Morris County towns that assumes the responsibility for soil and erosion management instead of leaving it to the county.

- Note alternatives being proposed for Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The word on the street is that Option B is most favored. Read the Plan at

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Great%20Swamp/ccphome.html>.

- Bill Koch, Director of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, is retiring after 43 years. See Events below.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- April 2014. Memo to NJDEP concerning application for an LOI on Ferndale Road. Memo to Planning Board suggesting a conservation easement be obtained on steep slopes on a subdivision on Longview Road.

- March 2014. Memo to Planning Board urging adoption of Natural Resources Inventory as a section of the Conservation Element of the Master Plan.

- January 2014. Memo to Board of Adjustment concerning violation of conservation easement on steep slopes on a property on Susan Drive, memo to NJDEP urging an applicant for subdivision on Shunpike Road to obtain an LOI.

EVENTS

- Retirement celebration for Bill Koch organized by the Friends of the GSNWR. Saturday, May 31, 2014, 6 p.m., Basking Ridge Country Club, 185 Madisonville Rd., Basking Ridge, NJ. \$48. Mail RSVP and check payable to: Friends of Great Swamp NWR to Friends of Great Swamp NWR, 241 Pleasant Plains Rd., Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 by May 10.

- ANJEC Capitol Day. Friday, May 30, 2014. 9:30am - 12:30pm. Statehouse Annex, Committee Room 16, Trenton. Free for CTEC members.

- Tour historic Duke Farms. ANJEC Garden Party at Duke Farms, Sunday, June 8, 4:00pm - 8:00pm, Duke Farms Orientation Center, 1112 Dukes Parkway West, Hillsborough. \$75 per person.
- Passaic River Symposium VI, Intersecting Priorities, Organized by the Passaic River Institute of Montclair State University, Thursday October 9, 2014, Friday October 10, 2014, Montclair State University Conference Center, 1 Normal Avenue, Montclair, NJ. About \$60 if you identify yourself as an EC member. Note that any group can host a short workshop on their topic of interest. <http://www.montclair.edu/csam/passaic-river-institute/conferences-symposiums>.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Long Hill and Chatham Borough Environmental Commissions.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 8:11

Carolyn Scannelli